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at the different points of supply is under the consideration of the Government Electricity Department. It is expected that the increase will be feasible towards the end of September 1955. The above position was explained to the hon. Member."

Scholarships for Harijan pupils.

* 1948 *Q*.—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state— 8-50 a.m.

(*a*) how many of the Harijan boys studying in (1) the District Board High School, Uthukottai, (2) District Board High School, Kadambathur, (3) Calavala Cannan Chetty High School, Tiruvallur and (4) Goduhi High School, Tiruvallur, applied for scholarships in 1954–55;

(*b*) how many of them have been granted scholarships; and

(*c*) the number of applications rejected on the ground that the applications were submitted after the due date by the headmasters concerned?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Seventeen Harijan pupils of the District Board High School, Kadambattur, and nine Harijan pupils of the Kalavala Canniah Chetty High School, Tiruvallur, applied for non-residential scholarships during 1954–55. Out of these seven pupils were granted scholarships in each of these schools. No applications were received from the students of the other two schools.

" (*c*) No application was rejected on the ground that it was received late."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that these scholarship applications of the Harijans are kept aside by the headmasters and are not submitted to the sanctioning authorities even after it was pointed out by the Union Deputy Minister for Health to the Government of Madras? If so, will the Government consider the whole question seriously and give strict instructions to the headmasters to see that the applications for scholarship from Harijans and Backward Classes are not kept aside by them? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Instructions have been issued to the heads of institutions through the Director of Public Instruction that they should see that there is no delay in the supply of scholarship application forms as well as the submission of filled-up application forms to the Director of Harijan Welfare."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Is there anything like the setting aside of applications coming from Harijans and Backward Classes on the ground that they have come from a particular community? "

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Applications from both the Backward Classes and Harijans are forwarded to the Director of Harijan Welfare through heads of institutions."

Village panchayats constituted in 1954.

* 1949 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state how many village panchayats were constituted in the State in 1954?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Three hundred and fifty-eight new panchayats were constituted in the year 1954."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The Madras Village Panchayats Act was passed more than five years ago but the formation of new panchayats has been tediously slow. Especially in view of the Second Five-Year Plan, will the Government see that the formation of panchayats is expedited in all villages soon? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Only in 1954, 358 new panchayats were constituted but in 1955 we have constituted 5,203 panchayats."

House-rent allowance to aided elementary school teachers.

* 1950 *Q.*—SRI M. VENUGOPALA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the aided elementary school teachers in Tindivanam Municipality to grant them house-rent allowance; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Mill workers' token strike in Coimbatore on 21st December 1954.

* 1951 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state how many workers were arrested in Coimbatore on 21st December 1954 and afterwards in connexion with the one-day token strike by the mill workers protesting against the policy of the Government for not implementing the Textile Tripartite Enquiry Committee's recommendations?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Forty-seven workers, Sir."